

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Samson Man Charged with Child Solicitation *Arrest Stems from Undercover ICAC Investigation*

OZARK — A 39-year-old Samson man was arrested Tuesday on charges of child solicitation by computer and transmission of obscene material to a minor, following an investigation by the Dale County Sheriff's Department, the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, and the District Attorney's Office of Dale and Geneva counties. Charles Jerome Morgan was arrested in Ozark and currently is in the Dale County Jail, with additional charges pending.

The arrest follows a six-week undercover, online investigation by Dale County officers participating in the Internet Crimes Against Children program. During the course of the investigation Morgan corresponded via the Internet with an undercover officer posing online as a 13-year-old girl. Morgan was arrested at an Ozark motel after having made arrangements to meet his online contact, whom he believed to be the 13-year-old girl, at the motel.

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, ICAC seeks to detect sexual offenders who use the Internet to commit crimes against children. ICAC-trained officers with the Alabama Bureau of Investigation conduct online, undercover investigations and conduct forensic analysis of computers seized in ICAC investigations. ABI agents also have trained officers at 10 ICAC satellite offices throughout Alabama, and have equipped these agencies with the necessary equipment to conduct ICAC investigations. ICAC satellite offices include the Calhoun, Dale, Dekalb, Elmore, Lee, Mobile, and Tallapoosa county sheriff's offices, and the Huntsville, Sheffield and Hartselle police departments.

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